

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the indicated paragraph and substitute therefor the following amended, clean versions of the paragraphs. A marked-up version of the amended paragraphs is provided in Appendix A.

Please delete the paragraph on page 7, lines 1-12 and insert therefor:

B1  
The term "nucleic acid binding protein" is used herein to refer to a protein that specifically binds to a nucleic acid at a particular nucleotide sequence. Nucleic acid binding proteins include DNA binding proteins, mRNA binding proteins, tRNA binding proteins, and proteins that specifically bind modified or otherwise non-standard nucleic acids as described above. Nucleic acid binding proteins include, but are not limited to DNA binding proteins such as Fis, LacI, lambda cI, lambda cro, LexA, TrpR, ArgR, AraC, CRP, FNR, OxyR, IHF, GalR, MalT, LRP, SoxR, SoxS, sigma factors, chi, T4 MotA, P1 RepA, p53, NF-kappa-B, and RNA binding proteins or protein/RNA complexes such as ribosomes, T4 regA, spliceosomes (donor and acceptor), polyA binding factor, and the like. A large number of nucleic acid binding proteins are described in the TransFac database, *see also Nucleic Acids Res.* (25)(1)265-268 (1997).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1-11, 13-15, 34, 42, 51, 61, and 63 with the following clean versions of the amended claims. A marked up copy showing the amendments to the claims is attached hereto in Appendix A.

B2  
1. (amended) A system comprising  
an isolated nucleic acid having a length of at least 5 base pairs and having a nucleotide sequence that comprises a first protein binding site and a second protein binding site where said first and second protein binding sites are spaced in proximity to each other such that:

when said first protein binding site is specifically bound by a protein, said second binding site cannot be bound by a protein that otherwise specifically recognizes and binds said second binding site; and